

Texas Attorney General

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The **Texas Attorney General** is the chief legal and law enforcement officer of the State of Texas.

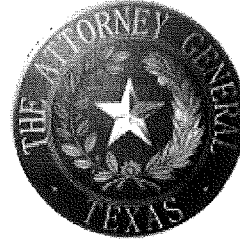
The department has offices at the William P. Clements State Office Building in Downtown Austin.

[1][2]

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Duties and responsibilities
- 3 List of Texas Attorneys General
 - 3.1 State of Texas
- 4 Political prominence
- 5 Notes
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Attorney General of Texas



Incumbent

Greg Abbott

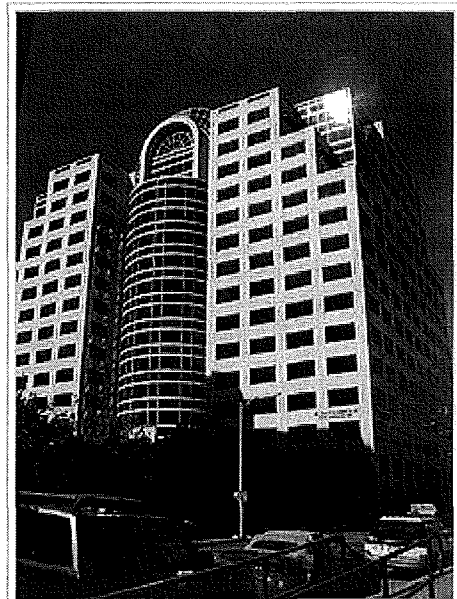
since December 2, 2002

Style	The Honorable
Term length	Four years, no term limits
Inaugural holder	Volney E. Howard 1846
Formation	Texas Constitution
Website	[1] (http://www.oag.state.tx.us/)

History

The Office of the Attorney General was first established by executive ordinance of the Republic of Texas government in 1836. The attorneys general of the Republic of Texas and the first four attorneys general under the 1845 state constitution were appointed by the governor. The office was made elective in 1850 by constitutional amendment.

The attorney general is elected to a four-year term. The current 49th attorney general of Texas is Greg Abbott (Republican), in office since December 2, 2002. Abbott was re-elected in 2006 and 2010 and as of July 18, 2012, he is the longest-serving Attorney General in Texas history and by the end of his third term, Abbott will have served about 12 years in office.



The William P. Clements State Office Building has the attorney general offices

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In 2013, Abbott announced he would not seek reelection and would run for Governor. There are currently 6 candidates for the November election: Ken Paxton and Dan Branch (facing a run-off for the Republican nomination), Sam Houston, Tom Glass and Jamie Balagia (facing a run-off for the Libertarian nomination), and Jamar Osborne. Run-off elections will be held May 27.^[3]

Duties and responsibilities

The attorney general is charged by the state constitution to defend the laws and constitution of Texas, represent the state in litigation, and approve public bond issues. There are nearly 2,000 references to the Office of the Attorney General in state laws.

To fulfill these responsibilities, the Office of the Attorney General serves as legal counsel to all boards and agencies of state government, issues legal opinions when requested by the governor, heads of state agencies and other officials and commissions, and defends challenges to state laws and suits against both state agencies and individual employees of the state. These duties include representing the Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in appeals from criminal convictions in federal courts. The Office of the Attorney General, Law Enforcement Division employs a staff of sworn commissioned Texas peace officers (state police) that investigate public corruption, violent crime, human trafficking, money laundering, medicaid provider fraud, mortgage fraud, election violations, cybercrime, fugitives (apprehension), investigate other special classes of offenses, and conduct criminal investigations at the request of local prosecutors. In addition, the Law Enforcement Division is the state of Texas liaison to Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The office is also charged with proceedings to secure child support through its Child Support Division.^[4]

List of Texas Attorneys General

State of Texas

Attorney General	Took office	Left office	Party
Volney Howard	February 21, 1846	May 7, 1846	Democrat
John W. Harris	May 7, 1846	October 31, 1849	Democrat
Henry Percy Brewster	October 31, 1849	January 15, 1850	
Andrew Jackson Hamilton	January 15, 1850	August 5, 1850	Democrat
Ebenezer Allen ¹	August 5, 1850	August 2, 1852	
Thomas J. Jennings	August 2, 1852	August 4, 1856	
James Willie	August 4, 1856	August 2, 1858	
Malcolm D. Graham	August 2, 1858	August 6, 1860	Democrat
George M. Flournoy	August 6, 1860	January 15, 1862	Democrat
Nathan G. Shelley			Democrat
Benjamin E. Tarver			

William Alexander			Republican
William M. Walton	August 9, 1866	August 8, 1867	Democrat
Ezekiel B. Turner	Nov. 5, 1867	July 11, 1870	Independent
William Alexander	July 11, 1870	Jan. 27, 1874	Republican
George W. Clark	Jan. 27, 1874	Apr. 25, 1876	Democrat
Hannibal Boone	Apr. 25, 1876	Nov. 5, 1878	Democrat
George McCormick	Nov. 5, 1878	Nov. 2, 1880	
James H. McLeary	Nov. 2, 1880	Nov. 7, 1882	Democrat
John D. Templeton	Nov. 7, 1882	Nov. 2, 1886	Democrat
Jim Hogg	Nov. 2, 1886	Nov. 4, 1890	Democrat
Charles Allen Culberson	Nov. 4, 1890	Nov. 8, 1894	Democrat
Martin McNulty Crane	Nov. 6, 1894	Nov. 8, 1898	Democrat
Thomas Slater Smith	Nov. 8, 1898	March 15, 1901	Democrat
Charles K. Bell	March 15, 1901	1904	Democrat
Robert V. Davidson	1904	January 1, 1910	Democrat
Jewel P. Lightfoot	January 1, 1910	August 31, 1912	Democrat
James D. Walthall	September 1, 1912	January 1, 1913	Democrat
B. F. Looney	January 1, 1913	January 1919	Democrat
Calvin M. Cureton	January 1919	December 1921	Democrat
Walter Angus Keeling	December 1921	January 1925	Democrat
Dan Moody	January 1925	January 1927	Democrat
Claude Pollard	January 1927	September 1929	Democrat
Robert L. Bobbitt ²	September 1929	January 1931	Democrat
James Allred	January 1931	January 1935	Democrat
William McCraw	January 1935	January 1939	Democrat
Gerald Mann ³	January 1939	January 1944	Democrat
Grover Sellers	January 1944	January 1947	Democrat
Price Daniel	January 1947	January 1953	Democrat
John Ben Shepperd	January 1953	January 1, 1957	Democrat
Will Wilson	January 1, 1957	January 15, 1963	Democrat
Waggoner Carr	January 15, 1963	January 1, 1967	Democrat
Crawford Martin	January 1, 1967	December 29, 1972	Democrat
John Hill	January 1, 1973	January 19, 1979	Democrat

Mark White	January 19, 1979	January 18, 1983	Democrat
Jim Mattox	January 18, 1983	January 15, 1991	Democrat
Dan Morales	January 15, 1991	January 13, 1999	Democrat
John Cornyn	January 13, 1999	December 2, 2002	Republican
Greg Abbott	December 2, 2002	present	Republican

Political prominence

Many leading political figures in Texas history have served as attorney general, several of them using the office as a jumping off place to other offices in the state and national government. Attorneys general James S. Hogg, Charles A. Culberson, Dan Moody, James Allred, Price Daniel, and Mark White were elected governor. Culberson, Daniel, and John Cornyn were later elected to the United States Senate.^[5]

Notes

1. First elected Attorney General
2. Appointed
3. Resigned

References

1. ^ "Contacting the Office of the Attorney General (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/agency/contacts.shtml>)." *Texas Attorney General*. Accessed September 13, 2008.
 2. ^ "STATE AGENCIES (<http://www.hr.state.tx.us/Directors/directors.html>)." *State of Texas State Classification*. Accessed September 13, 2008.
 3. ^ Texas attorney general election, 2014 (http://ballotpedia.org/Texas_attorney_general_election,_2014), Ballotpedia.
 4. ^ Duties & Responsibilities (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/agency/agency.shtml>) - Office of the Attorney General
 5. ^ Attorney General (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mba03>) from the *Handbook of Texas Online*
- Family court judge sheds light on unfair child support practices in Texas (<http://www.dallasobserver.com/2008-04-03/news/family-court-judge-sheds-light-on-unfair-child-support-practices-in-texas/>)

External links

- Texas Attorney General (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>)
- Attorney General (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mba03>) from the *Handbook of Texas Online*
- Texas Attorney General Opinions (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TXAGO/>), hosted by the Portal to Texas History (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>).

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Categories: State agencies of Texas | Texas Attorneys General | State constitutional officers of Texas

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